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The Effect of an Educational Program on Faculty Stages of Concern Regarding the Use of Interactive Video Services (IVS) in Undergraduate Nursing Education

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There is an expected shortage of 500,000 nurses within the next two decades (AACN, 2008). This dearth of nurses results from a concurrent shortage of nursing faculty. Inadequate numbers of nursing faculty and scarcity of other resources, such as limited clinical sites for learning experiences, resulted in 30,000 qualified applicants being denied admission to baccalaureate nursing programs in 2007 (AACN, 2008).

In an attempt to address the nursing shortage, faculty members at Western Kentucky University (WKU) adopted the use of Interactive Video Services (IVS) as a teaching method. WKU was one of the first universities to utilize IVS in its satellite classrooms. In this way, WKU was able to deliver a full educational program to a remote location that had not previously been served by WKU using IVS. The program was staffed by WKU faculty members who had the opportunity to participate in the academic preparation of these students. This program is an example of the potential for facilities to recruit future nurses. Secondly, by increasing the number of available clinical sites, increasing the number of students did not negatively impact local health care facilities.

While planning for the expansion of the prelicensure program with the addition of IVS as a teaching method, it was recognized that many of the current faculty members had little or no experience using this technology. It is imperative that faculty have the opportunity for professional development related to the use of IVS in order to maintain a positive learning environment (Billings & Halstead, 1999). Therefore, nursing faculty members who had experience using IVS participated in formal training related to IVS prior to the decision to adopt this technology. In addition, only three faculty members in the study had actually implemented IVS in their classrooms. Data were analyzed using SPSS v. 16. The sample consisted of all Caucasian females. The age of the subjects ranged from 30 to 64. The years of experience in nursing ranged from 6 to 34. Teaching experience varied from one semester to 23 years. All subjects had previous preparation in nursing education. Also, 58.9% of participants reported having some formal training related to nursing education; however, only 44.4% had received formal training related to IVS prior to the decision to adopt this technology.

Results of the current study support that all stages of concern were affected by providing education and some potential uses, as well as a desire for more formal training related to IVS. Such alternative delivery modes may serve as one effective strategy to address the nursing shortage; therefore, it is imperative that further research be conducted to examine the use of IVS as a delivery mode.

References

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